



29 July 2005



## Update #2 on the Impacts of Global Rebasing on United States Army Forces in Europe

1. On 7 April 2005 I provided you with my first update on the execution of Global Rebasing and Transformation in USAREUR (Bell Sends 18-05). This "Update #2" provides specifics on Global Rebasing actions that will be executed in fiscal year 2006. First and foremost, the Department of Defense has just announced that the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters and most of the division base (less 2d Brigade Combat Team) will return to the United States in fiscal year 2006. This will result in the eventual closure of several installations in the Division's footprint.
2. We expect the impacted 1st Infantry Division units will either inactivate, go to cadre status and return to CONUS for reconstitution, or return to CONUS full strength in fiscal year 2006. Resultant base closures will likely follow in fiscal year 2007. A full list of the affected units and installations can be found on the USAREUR homepage at <http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/>.
3. These actions are part of the continuing process to transform USAREUR. As I wrote in Bell Sends 25-04 in August 2004, "these rebasing and restructuring efforts will provide us with a lean and lethal fighting force properly sized and stationed to meet our Nation's security needs." I want to emphasize this point again. USAREUR transformation will not just reduce our footprint and the number of Soldiers we have in Europe. It will provide combatant commanders with a modern / transformed, lethal, agile, and very capable force, able to meet any mission that the Nation gives us.
4. There are other already announced transformation initiatives that will be executed in fiscal year 2006. For example, we are currently setting the conditions to station a Stryker Brigade in Vilseck and will begin to modularize our aviation assets, as well as the 173d Airborne Brigade. Some units will inactivate, some will transform, and some will return to the United States. We will continue to provide you with full information on all these actions as the planning for them and various notification processes are completed. We will maintain an open flow of information to our Soldiers, civilians, and families.

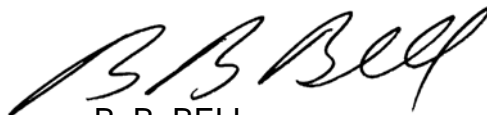
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5. As we transform we will continue to provide forces to fight in the GWOT. In all this, we will do everything we can to minimize the disruption for our Soldiers, families, and civilians. As I have noted many times, no deployed unit will return to CONUS directly from the combat zone. Units will return to their bases in Europe, link up with families where applicable, and complete the reintegration process, including block leave. Further, we will retain full service life-support facilities in the Würzburg hub until they are no longer needed to support units in surrounding areas. All of our supporting agencies, such as IMA-EURO, DECA, AAFES, and DODDS, are dedicated to continuing to provide world-class support as we transform.

6. USAREUR transformation is challenging, but necessary. It will make us a better Army in Europe—an Army that can fight and win our Nation's wars while ensuring our Soldiers and families work and live in modern, world-class facilities. Thank you all for your support in this vital work, as we work to create a force that can execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere. I'll keep you posted.



B. B. BELL  
General, US Army  
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